Testing of Indigenous Engine for Light Combat Aircraft

1377. SHRI SURESH KALMADI;

he Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the progress in the testing of indigenous engine f°r the Light Combat Aircraft;

i by when will Light Combat Air-qraft mass production start; and

.,: will be its approximate cost?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRO-iON AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI (rAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Gov-ul] scale development of GTX-35VS e;igine for Light Combat Aircraft been approved Design re-progress.

Series production of LCA is likely to .ommence in mid 90's.

cost of LCA will depend on ; rim, policy on amortization pment cost etc,

lition to Practitioners of Different Pathies

1378. SHRl B. L. PANWAR: Will :> ister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have issued directions to the State Governments to cognition to the practitioners of different pathies; viz. Ayurveda; Homoeopathy. Unani, Sidha, etc. on the basis of experience; and

if so whether the State Governments have responded positively in this regard, the state-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROI KHAPARDE); (a) According to Government of India's latest guidelines the State Governments have to ensure that there is no fresh addition whatsoever of unqualified persons to the stream of practitioners.

(b) Does not arise.

Strengthening of Naval Defences

1379. SHRl KAPIL VERMA;
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL;

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) what steps are being taken to strengthen our Naval defences in view of the grave concern being felt over the growing presence of outside naval forces in the Indian Ocean;

(b) what was the reaction of the Aust-ralian Prime Minister in case this issue was discussed with him; and

(c) what measures are being taken to exercise our legitimate rights in our exclusive economic zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRO-DUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI rAMANI PANIGRAHI); (a) Government of India keeps all de-jnts having a bearing on the country's security under constant observation and initiates appropriate measures from time to time to maintain defence preparedness. The lndian Navy is equipped and modernised in keeping with emerging threat preceptions.

(b) During the recent visit of the Australian Prime Minister, the Indian Prime Minister indicated India's preceptions on the Indian Ocean scenario and our commitment to the protection of our substantial maritime interests. *The* Astralian Prime Minister expressed complete understanding of the factors behind India's recent Naval expansion programme.

(c) All necessary measures are being taken to exercise our legitimate rights ln our exclusive economic zone.